Welcome to the Washington Natural Resources Information Portal - Phase I

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Introduction - Thank you for your interest in the Washington Natural Resources Information Portal.   On June 1, 2003 we are on target to open an information portal via the worldwide web.   This web portal is designed to help public stakeholders conduct quick and easy searches and access Washington State environmental and natural resource related datasets from a single website. The public 'user' can query by location, such as *county*, *watershed* or *salmon recovery region*, by agency, theme category or file type and can conduct keyword searches. There will be a variety of other search options, as well.   What makes this web portal unique from other information portals or clearinghouses is that this project was collectively designed via a team of top state information managers who bring quality experience and insight on their agency datasets and have been tasked to make such information accessible to the public as part of a larger on-going salmon recovery effort.[1]   New datasets not previously available on the web will also be coming on-line.

Brief History - In April 2001, Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5637 was signed into law which requires the development of a "comprehensive statewide strategy for monitoring watershed health with a focus on salmon recovery".   As part of this strategy the portal project was planned and scoped out by the Salmon and

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[1] The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy for Watershed Heath and Salmon Recovery, Volume 3 of 3, December of 2002.

Watershed Information Management Technical Advisory Committee (SWIM TAC) from May through October of 2002.

Phase II and III - The intent of Phase II and Phase III is to add local and federal government datasets. Phase I of the web portal sends the user to the dataset which is stored on the respective <u>state agency web site</u> (datasets are not stored in the portal website itself). Additional options for the user to work with datasets within the portal application itself will be considered for future phases and will be contingent on the effectiveness, usage and outcome of Phase I.

Where We Are On The Portal Development - The actual construction work of the portal began on January 3, 2003. To date we have completed 5 major workshops working with the contractor, *Windsor Solutions*. On May 30, 2003 we will have a *fully functional portal* available for public use and official dataset entry. Concurrent to portal design and construction, we have developed and finalized a *Data Catalog* of some 150 state agency datasets. Each agency will be responsible for entering dataset descriptions (formally known as 'metadata' which means written narrative about the dataset to help the user), an agency web URL address and other dataset information. We anticipate that the Natural Resources Information Portal will be fully 'populated' with state agency datasets by the public opening date set by June 1, 2003. For additional information, please contact: Nadine Romero at (360) 902-2954 or by e-mail at: NadineR@IAC.WA.GOV